

BLIND MAN'S BASEBALL

HV1765
B



M.C. MIGEL LIBRARY
AMERICAN PRINTING
HOUSE FOR THE BLIND

WAIST HIGH WIRE

Pic Magazine

Third Baseman

SECOND BASE MAN

FIRST BASE MAN

PITCHER

MAN ON FIRST BASE

PITCHED RING ON WIRE

BATTER

CATCHER

BLIND MAN'S BASEBALL

BASEBALL has been our national pastime for almost a hundred years. Proud fathers buy their male offspring a ball and bat when the youngsters are scarcely big enough to walk, and gloves are standard equipment for all kids over five. Every

American boy plays baseball—everyone, that is, except the boy who is blind. Other physical handicaps may often be overcome to an extent where a child can at least play catch, but the boy without sight is forever deprived of the fun which baseball affords. Re-

cently, however, William Schmidt, a blind resident of St. Paul, developed a variation of the diamond sport which at last gives sightless boys and men an opportunity to play almost the same game that more fortunate youths have been enjoying for the

HU 1765
B
copy one



A CABLE to guide the runners is stretched around the diamond. Another cable, 100 feet long and 42 inches high, runs in a straight line from the catcher's box almost to second base. At each end are mats to stop the ball (a metal ring three and one half inches in diameter) when it gets away from the catcher or fielders. A team is made up of five players: catcher, pitcher

and three basemen. Pitcher's box is 50 feet from home plate, and the three fielders are at 15-foot intervals behind the moundman. The game requires an umpire with normal vision to call the plays, but otherwise the blind contestants need no outside aid. Reversed order of bases is illustrated in drawing at top of page. Above photo shows a warmup before game time.



LIBRARY OF THE
UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA
AT BERKELEY
JAN 19 1938
PHOTOGRAPHY
SERIALS ACQUISITION
DEPT. OF LIBRARY SERVICES
UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA
LIBRARY

MAN ON THIRD BASE



past century. The idea came to Schmidt while he was visiting a blind friend who was exercising along a guide wire in his back yard. He struck the small ring on the wire and heard it slide along its course. And there he had Baseball for the Blind!



PITCHER inserts a three-foot steel rod into the ring, which he whips down the wire toward the plate. The batter, using a regulation bludgeon, gauges his swing by the sound of the ring's

spinning along the cable. Players with normal vision find that the ring travels at such a terrific speed that it is impossible to see, and consequently it must be judged entirely by ear.



BALL must be hit past the pitcher to be fair. He is not permitted to field the ball, and fielders may only stab at it—not hold gloves on the wire. Batter is out if the ball is returned to catcher before he reaches the initial sack.



AUTOMATIC home run is registered when the ball gets past fielders and hits the backstop. Otherwise the batter is entitled to as many bases as he can make before the ball's return to the plate. Runners advance with subsequent hits.



BASE RUNNING is a finer art than in the ordinary game, since players must judge distance perfectly to maintain maximum speed without crashing into perpendicular wires. Rules were developed by another blind sports enthusiast.

All This AND STARDOM TOO

JOBS at \$50 per week per person at Michael Todd attractions at the World's Fair, a vacation engagement at Long Island's luxurious resort, The Lido Club at Lido Beach, a special weekly radio program over the "Cradle of Fame" station WNEW, round-trip tickets to New York, accommodation at Hotel Times Square, special House of Westmore make-up kits—all this and stardom, too, awaits these winners of the fifth "PIC" Amateur Contest. Mary Marvin, a winner of the second "PIC" contest, has starred at Michael Todd's Du Bust Inn since her singing engagement at the Dancing Campus. Freddy King, a third-contest winner, has been offered a job as vocalist on a New Jersey radio station. The Rollettes, "PIC" 's roller-skating trio, are being booked for Fall theater appearances. Gordon Albert Macrae, a fourth "PIC" amateur winner, has been offered a part in the Broadway hit, "The Man Who Came to Dinner."



THE HARTFORD "DEBS," Dolly Zito, Edith Neiditch, Barbara Furey, survey their hotel, the Times Square, in the heart of Broadway which has opened its doors to these 14-year-old harmonizing fledglings. Their first professional song flight was lauded at Michael Todd's "Dancing Campus."



WILLIAM BUXTON'S mellow baritone it "just grew" in Birmingham, Ala.) won plaudits of WNEW fans, whose votes flooded the polls. He won the coveted Michael Todd engagement.



ADA FARREN of New Haven, Conn. currently delights beach loungers by day and Terrace Club rhythm connoisseurs by night, during her vacation at the Lido Club, Lido Beach, L. I.

B

C.

BLIND MAN'S BASEBALL

[illegible]

